

General Services Administration

§ 105-54.102

Subpart 105-54.4—Reports

105-54.400 Scope of subpart.

105-54.401 Reports on GSA Federal Advisory Committees.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 92-463 dated October 6, 1972, as amended; and 5 U.S.C. 552.

SOURCE: 53 FR 40224, Oct. 14, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 105-54.000 Scope of part.

This part sets forth policies and procedures in GSA regarding the establishment, operation, termination, and control of advisory committees for which GSA has responsibility. It implements the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), which authorizes a system governing the establishment and operation of advisory committees in the executive branch of the Federal Government, and Executive Order 11686 of October 7, 1972, which directs the heads of all executive departments and agencies to take appropriate action to ensure their ability to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Subpart 105-54.1—General Provisions

§ 105-54.101 Applicability.

This part 105-54 applies to all advisory committees for which GSA has responsibility. This part also applies to any committee that advises GSA officials even if the committee were not established for that purpose. This applicability, however, is limited to the period of the committee's use as an advisory body. This part does not apply to:

(a) An advisory committee exempted by an Act of Congress;

(b) A local civic group whose primary function is to render a public service in connection with a Federal program;

(c) A State or local committee, council, board, commission, or similar group established to advise or make recommendations to State or local officials or agencies;

(d) A meeting initiated by the President or one or more Federal official(s) for the purpose of obtaining advice or recommendations from one individual;

(e) A meeting with a group initiated by the President or one or more Fed-

eral official(s) for the sole purpose of exchanging facts or information;

(f) A meeting initiated by a group with the President or one or more Federal official(s) for the purpose of expressing the group's views, provided that the President or Federal official(s) does not use the group recurrently as a preferred source of advice or recommendations;

(g) A committee that is established to perform primarily operational as opposed to advisory functions. Operational functions are those specifically provided by law, such as making or implementing Government decisions or policy. An operational committee would be covered by the Act if it becomes primarily advisory in nature;

(h) A meeting initiated by a Federal official(s) with more than one individual for the purpose of obtaining the advice of individual attendees and not for the purpose of utilizing the group to obtain consensus advice or recommendations. However, such a group would be covered by the Act when an agency accepts the group's deliberations as a source of consensus advice or recommendations;

(i) A meeting of two or more advisory committee or subcommittee members convened solely to gather information or conduct research for a chartered advisory committee, to analyze relevant issues and facts, or to draft proposed position papers for deliberation by the advisory committee or a subcommittee of the advisory committee; and

(j) A committee composed wholly of full-time officers or employees of the Federal Government.

§ 105-54.102 Definitions.

(a) The term "advisory committee" means any committee, board, commission, council, conference, panel, task force, or other similar group or any subcommittee thereof that is:

(1) Established by statute,

(2) Established or utilized by the President, or

(3) Established or utilized by any agency official to obtain advice or recommendations that are within the scope of his/her responsibilities.

The term "advisory committee" excludes the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and any

committees composed wholly of full-time officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(b) “Presidential advisory committee” means any committee that advises the President. It may be established by the President or by the Congress, or may be used by the President to obtain advice or recommendations.

(c) “Independent Presidential advisory committee” means any Presidential advisory committee not assigned by the President, or the President’s delegate, or by the Congress in law, to an agency for administrative and other support and for which the Administrator of General Services may provide administrative and other support on a reimbursable basis.

(d) “Committee member” means an individual who serves by appointment on a committee and has the full right and obligation to participate in the activities of the committee, including voting on committee recommendations.

(e) “Staff member” means any individual who serves in a support capacity to an advisory committee.

(f) “Secretariat” means the General Services Administration’s Committee Management Secretariat. Established pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, it is responsible for all matters relating to advisory committees, and carries out the Administrator’s responsibilities under the Act and Executive Order 12024.

(g) “Utilized” (or used), as stated in the definition of “advisory committee” above, refers to a situation in which a GSA official adopts a committee or other group composed in whole or in part of other than full-time Federal officers or employees with an established existence outside GSA as a preferred source from which to obtain advice or recommendations on a specific issue or policy within the scope of his/her responsibilities in the same manner as that official would obtain advice or recommendations from an established advisory committee.

§ 105-54.103 Policy.

The basic GSA policy on committee management is as follows:

(a) Advisory committees will be formed or used by GSA only when spe-

cifically authorized by law, or by the President, or specifically determined as a matter of formal record by the Administrator of General Services to be in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on GSA by law;

(b) Advisory committees will not be used to administer a function that is the assigned responsibility of a service or staff office;

(c) The assigned responsibility of a GSA official may not be delegated to any committee;

(d) No advisory committee may be used for functions that are not solely advisory unless specifically authorized by statute or Presidential directive. Making policy decisions and determining action to be taken with respect to any matter considered by an advisory committee is solely the responsibility of GSA; and

(e) In carrying out its responsibilities, GSA will consult with and obtain the advice of interested groups substantially affected by its programs. The use of advisory committees for this purpose is considered to be in the public interest and necessary for the proper performance by GSA of its assigned functions.

§ 105-54.104 Responsibilities.

(a) Responsibility for coordination and control of committee management in GSA is vested in the Associate Administrator for Administration, who serves as the GSA Committee Management Officer (CMO). This Officer carries out the functions prescribed in section 8(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. In doing so, the Officer controls and supervises the establishment, procedures, and accomplishments of GSA-sponsored advisory committees. The Organization and Productivity Improvement Division, Office of Management Services, Office of Administration, provides staff resources and furnishes the Staff Contact Person (SCP) to the CMO.

(b) The Head of each Service and Staff Office and each Regional Administrator selects a Committee Management Officer (CMO) to coordinate and control committee management within the service, staff office, or regional office and to act as liaison to the GSA